(b) the dates on which such applications were received, name-wise and date-wise;

(c) the dates on which such telephones were disconnected in each case; and

(d) whether any complaint has been received in this behalf, if so, the details thereof and what action has been taken on such complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Sir, No such applications have been received during the first week of June, 1997 for disconnection of telephones working in Mohan Nagar.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Post Offices in Tamil Nadu

611. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Panchayats in the State of Tamil Nadu which have demanded for opening of post offices during the last two years;

(b) the total number of post offices opened in that State during the last two years;

(c) the total number of sub-post Offices upgraded into post office in the State during the last two years; and

(d) the total number of post offices Government is planning to open in the entire State of Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Ninety-three (93) Panchayats in the State of Tamil Nadu have demanded for opening of Post Offices during the last two years.

(b) Thirty-five (35) Post Offices opened in that State during the last two years.

(c) (i) No. Sub Post Office was upgraded to Head Post Office in the State during the last two years.

(ii) One Branch Post Office was upgraded to Sub Post Office in the State during the last two years.

(d) The plan target for Tamil Nadu for the year 1998-99 is Ten (10) Extra-Departmental Branch Post Offices and Two (2) Departmental Sub Post Offices.

Post Offices are opened subject to fulfilment of existing norms, availability of resources and plan targets.

Telecommunication Network in Orissa

612. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken towards expansion and modernisation of Telecommunication network in Orissa during Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the programmes proposed in that regard for that State for Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The information is given in the Statement — I. (*see* below)

(b) and (c) The information is given in the Statement — II. (*see* below)

Statement - I

The important step taken and the achievement towards expansion and modernisation of telecommunication network in Orissa during 8th Five Year Plan is as follows:

— Total equipped switching capacity added	149331
— Total DELs added	118261
— The No. of telephone exchanges added	196
— STD stations added (STD facility has been provided to all the District Hqs., Sub Divisional Hqs.	498

and Tehsil Hqs. during 8th Plan Period)

— Village Public telephones added 13817
— TAX capacity added 20500
— Long Distance Transmission System Optical fibre added (Route Kms) 1751
— All the MAX-III, MAX-II and the strowger exchanges were replaced by electronic telephone exchanges.
— All the telex exchanges were made electronic.
— Computerisation of trunk manual exchanges at Cuttack was carried out.
— Non-voice service was introduced by commissioning of I-Net Nodes at Cuttack and Bhubneshwar.

Statement - II

Massive expansion and modernisation programme have drawn up for Orissa State during the 9th Five Year Plan. During 9th Plan period the circle proposes to increase the switching capacity by another 4.5 lakhs and the DELs by 3.5 lakhs. Instalation of a TAX exchange in each SSA Hqs. has already been achieved during 1997-98. Local dialling between the twin cities Cuttack and Bhubneswar has been implemented. Some of the major programmes are given below:

1. To provide telephone on demand.
2. To provide telephone facility in all the villages.
3. To provide STD facility to all the Exchanges.
4. To replace life expired and technologically obsolete switches with new tech digital switches.
5. To Computerise trunk services in all the SSA Headquarters.
6. Introduction of wireless in Local Loop, HDSL (High Bitrate Digital Subscriber Loop), ADS (Asymmetrical Digital Subscriber Loop) and Optical Fibre technologies in Local network.
7. Introduction of better and reliable technologies for providing village telephones.
8. To have reliable media for all exchanges.
9. Computerised billing and accounting in all the divisions.
10. To modernise fault repair service.
11. To computerise Directory enquiry services in all the SSAs.
12. To give priority for telecom facility in Tribal and Hilly areas and Industrial Growth centers.

ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में टेलीफोन कनेक्शन का काटा जाना

613. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के उपभोक्ताओं द्वारा टेलीफोन बिलों के भुगतान कर देने के बावजूद उनके टेलीफोन कनेक्शन काट दिए जाते हैं; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनके टेलीफोन कनेक्शन काटने के क्या कारण हैं जिससे उन्हें काफी असुविधा होती है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो टेलीफोन नं० 06272-34338 का कनेक्शन काटने के क्या कारण हैं?

संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कबीन्द्र पुरकायस्थ): (क) और (ख) ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में, निर्धारित अवधि के भीतर बिलों का भुगतान किए जाने पर टेलीफोन कनेक्शन नहीं काटे जाते हैं।

(ग) उपलब्ध रिकार्डों के अनुसार, निम्नलिखित बकाया देयताओं का भुगतान न किए जाने पर दिनांक 17.3.98 को टेलीफोन नं० 06272-34338 (एम ए आर आर, एस टी डी सुविधा युक्त) का कनेक्शन काट दिया गया था।

बिल की तारीख	राशि रुपयों में
15.10.96	1388.00
15.02.97	378.00
15.04.97	1453.00
कुल बकाया देय	3219.00